UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SPORT-BLX, INC., individually and derivatively on behalf of its shareholders,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL M. SALERNO and CYPRESS HOLDINGS, III, L.P.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:22-cv-8111-LGS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ANSWER TO COUNTERCLAIM

Plaintiff-Counterclaim Defendant Sport-BLX, Inc. ("Sport-BLX"), by its attorneys, Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello P.C., hereby answers or otherwise responds to the Counterclaim of Defendant-Counterclaim Plaintiff Michael M. Salerno as follows:

- 1. Sport-BLX admits the allegations in Paragraph 1.
- 2. Sport-BLX admits the allegations in Paragraph 2, except denies that Sport-BLX's principal place of business is located at 510 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, New York, 10022.
 - 3. Paragraph 3 calls for a legal conclusion to which no response is required.
 - 4. Paragraph 4 calls for a legal conclusion to which no response is required.
- 5. Sport-BLX adopts and incorporates by reference the responses to Paragraphs 1-4 as fully set forth above.
- 6. Sport-BLX denies the allegations in Paragraph 6, except admits that Sport-BLX's bylaws were adopted on November 20, 2018, and respectfully refers the Court to that document for its terms and effect.

- 7. Sport-BLX admits the allegations in Paragraph 7.
- 8. Sport-BLX admits the allegations in Paragraph 8.
- 9. Sport-BLX denies the allegations in Paragraph 9.
- 10. Sport-BLX denies the allegations in Paragraph 10, except admits that counsel for Salerno sent a letter to counsel for Sport-BLX on November 18, 2022 and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its terms and effect.
- 11. Sport-BLX admits the allegations in Paragraph 11 and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its terms and effect.
 - 12. Sport-BLX denies the allegations in Paragraph 12.

AFFIRMATIVE AND OTHER DEFENSES

Sport-BLX asserts the following affirmative and other defenses with respect to the causes of action alleged in the Counterclaim. In doing so, Sport-BLX does not concede that the assertion of such defenses imposes any burden on Sport-BLX with respect thereto. To the extent that investigation and/or discovery warrant, Sport-BLX reserves the right to supplement, amend, or withdraw any or all of the following affirmative or other defenses prior to any trial of this proceeding. In addition, Sport-BLX respectfully refers the Court to Sport-BLX's allegations in the Amended Complaint, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIRST DEFENSE

13. The Counterclaim fails to state a claim against Sport-BLX upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

14. Without admitting fault on Sport-BLX's part, the Counterclaim is barred by the doctrine of *in pari delicto*.

THIRD DEFENSE

15. The Counterclaim is barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of unclean hands.

Dated: March 16, 2023 New York, New York

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